

Sign in under PROPONENT FOR MAIL BALLOT ELECTION

Chairperson- Mr. Himmelberger and members of the committee/ committee member ????

For the record, I am here in support of senate bill 394

I am Donna Ross-R O S S - and I am from Wolf Point, MT. My husband and I moved to Montana from Washington State in 2007. Washington State is a mail ballot election state. I personally like the mbe as it gave me the time to read through the issues, mark on the pamphlet what I was voting for, then transfer to my ballot. As a working person it was convenient and I was not rushed to go to a polling place or to hurry and vote my ballot.

I have worked in the clerk and recorder's office in Roosevelt County since October 2007 and have worked through a primary and general election this past year.

My observations are that our county has:

Difficulty in obtaining/retaining judges

Because of increased absentee voting, we are doing both mail ballot and polling place voting

Because of low turnout at the polls on election day, it is not cost effective.

The positive aspects of a mail ballot election would be that

Mail ballot would afford people the option of voting at home or voting their ballot at the courthouse polling place.

Another convenience would be to drop your ballot in the mail or deliver it personally to the courthouse polling place or other designated drop off sites.

Increased participation among voters

Voter lists are easier to accurately maintain with mail ballot

Concerns of the general public regarding notification

A notice will be printed in the newspaper to notify the general public when ballots/pamphlets will be sent out.

If a person did not receive their ballot, they can notify the clerk and recorders office and the issue will be resolved.

Please give us the chance to show how successful mail ballot elections can be in Montana.

I am here in support of this bill for all the reasons you've already heard and for the following reason(s) also -

If there are follow up questions from the chairperson/committee - address them as chairman himmelberger and committee member - (name)

Roosevelt county has done mail ballot election in the city municipal and had a 34% increase in voter turnout.